

EXERCISE P1/P2-2 ♦ The comma

To read about this topic, see sections P1 and P2 in *A Writer's Reference*, Seventh Edition.

A

Insert commas where they are needed with coordinating conjunctions in the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, mark it “OK.” Example:

Coach Warner was impressed with the new player's skill, and he looked for a chance to try him in an actual game.

1. Jim passed Coach Warner's test but he did not get to play right away.
2. Then in one game a player was injured and Coach Warner sent Jim in.
3. At first, no one but Jim and the coach believed that Jim could play well enough.
4. He lost five yards the first time he got the ball but the next time he ran sixty-five yards for a touchdown.
5. His sports career began with that game and included major honors in track, lacrosse, baseball, and football.

B

Insert commas where they are needed after an introductory element, in a series, and with coordinate adjectives. If a sentence is correct, mark it “OK.” Example:

After trying to tackle Thorpe only once, Jim's most famous opponent never played football again.

6. In a game against Army, Thorpe had the ball.
7. One Army player tried to tackle Jim, failed, injured his knee in the process and had to be helped from the field.
8. That strong confident player said in later years, “Thorpe gained ground; he always gained ground.”
9. Although the injured player was never able to play football again he became famous in other ways.
10. He became supreme commander of the Allied armies in Europe in World War II and thirty-fourth president of the United States—Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Fortunately or unfortunately, along with his Native American heritage came great pride and stoicism. That pride kept him silent when the greatest blow of all came: He was forced to return the Olympic medals he had won in 1912 because he was declared to be not an amateur. He dealt stoically with his personal tragedies. When infantile paralysis struck his son Jim Thorpe disappeared for a few days to deal with the tragedy alone. His stoicism also saw him through a demotion to the minor leagues and sad years of unemployment and poverty before his death.

Even death's tackle may not have been totally successful: After Jim Thorpe's death his Olympic medals were returned, and a town was named after him.

P1-b

P1-b